

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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June 19, 2006

Southern California Association of Governments818 W. Seventh Street, 12th Floor (Main Office)

Los Angeles, CA 90017

Attention: Mr. Jonathan Nadler, Program Manager II

Subject: State Route 90 (Imperial Highway), Grade Separation Project,
Caltrans Project Number E.A. 56211
Particulate Matter Conformity

Dear Jonathan:

The Esperanza/Orangethorpe/SR-90 intersection is currently operating at Level of Service (LOS) F during the peak hours even without the effects of train crossing. If a train crossing occurs during the peak hour traffic on SR-90, Orangethorpe Avenue and Esperanza Road experience 5 to 10 minute delays and related queues. Daily traffic volumes on SR-90 are expected to grow from 46,000 vehicles in 1996 to a projected volume of 80,000 vehicles in 2020 at the BNSF Railroad crossings. Rail traffic is also expected to increase from 68 crossing in 2001 to as many as 128 crossings in the year 2010.

This project is a top priority for Caltrans. Project was voted by CTC on June 7, 2006, therefore, project must be awarded by December 1, 2006, or chance loosing the \$60 Mil. Due to time line required to finalize and reproduce the bid documents, advertise and award the project, we are running out of time to meet this important deadline. Caltrans can not advertise the project without FHWA approval also known as E76 or would loose Federal fund participation. In order to get E76 Caltrans must have approval for PM Hot Spot Conformity.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Arman Behtash of my staff at (949) 724-2029.

Sincerely,

Reza Aurasteh, Ph.D., PE, Chief
Environmental Engineering Branch

C: Arman Behtash, Environmental Engineering